

**ALPLM LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB) MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2013
JRTC/LT. GOV. CONF ROOM
CHICAGO, IL**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:15 a.m. by Dick Meister, serving as Chair; Steve Beckett, Chair, attended by phone.

ROLL CALL

Present in Chicago: Dick Meister, Donna Carroll, Charles Branham, Patrick Reardon, Craig Sautter, Sean Vinck, Eileen Mackevich, Kathryn Harris, Ken Crutcher, Sonny Fischer, Wayne Whalen

Present in Springfield via videoconference: Amy Martin, Nan Reep, Rene Brethorst, Garth Madison, Carla Knorowski, and Jan Perone

Via Teleconference: Steve Beckett

Absent: Leigh Bienen and Ranjan Karri

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ADDENDUM

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from both the March 22 and June 14 meetings were approved with a single correction of the spelling of Sautter.

REPORTS:

Advisory Board Chair: Steve Beckett reported that he is still meeting regularly with Kathryn and Eileen and that he also attended the July IHPA Board Meeting as evidence of the continuing desire for all three boards to form a successful alliance so that all can work together productively in the future. He reported that the names of two LAB member candidates (David Spadafora, President and Librarian at the Newberry and Paula Kaufman, Emeritus Director, University of IL Libraries) have been submitted to the Governor's Office for approval.

ALPLM Executive Director: Eileen Mackevich reported on events and activities at the Museum and Library in the near and distant future. ***She discussed the need for the LAB to prepare an annual report to be sent to the Governor as per the statutes.** Director Martin had volunteered to provide an example of a report and this will be circulated. Eileen and Kathryn will work together to prepare and present a draft report to Beckett. Patrick Reardon and Greg Sautter agreed to edit the draft, after it has been reviewed by the entire board. The report needs to be transmitted to the Governor's Office before the next LAB meeting.

***I (Eileen Mackevich) misspoke at the Advisory Board meeting. According to statute the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Advisory Board should provide an annual report to the General Assembly.**

There are several programs planned at the Museum regarding the 150th Gettysburg Address Anniversary an event notice will be distributed. In 2014 maybe there will be a music conference focusing on the role of music in the Civil War In 2015; there is the possibility of collaboration with UIS and UIUC involving musical talent and highlighting the Library sheet music collections. Possible application to IMLS or NEH to request-grant funding to catalog our music collection was noted.

A revised and enhanced edition of the booklet for the Whispering Gallery is being developed.

Eileen has written to Lonnie Bunch at the-African American History Museum on the DC Mall (part of the Smithsonian) in regard to the possibility of a collaboration and digitization effort regarding the US and transatlantic slave trade; she will also contact Carol Adams at the DuSable Museum to ask her cooperation as well.. In addition, she stated that she hopes Charles Branham will participate in a meeting to collaborate on the national level with the UK from Wilberforce University on "Slavery and the American Economy".

Eileen mentioned "the Millennials" and stated that the next decade for ALPLM will focus on the relationship between education and entertainment. She is asking Leigh Bienen to co-chair this effort with Library/Museum staff.

Donna Carroll recommended we form a Youth Advisory Board.

Vinck offered some cautionary words in that the communication style of these millennials should not be the end all and be all of our education efforts.

On the 200th Anniversary (2018) of Illinois Statehood, Eileen noted that there has been no substantive history of Illinois during the 20th century and a lesser effort in 1968 at the Sesquicentennial in 1968. Has technology made a difference? Could everyone in the state be engaged in writing history? What about inviting the local and regional historical societies to participate in this effort or create an Illinois Wikipedia with student participation using the talents of various individuals in the state to write/update the state's history?

Eileen continued her report and stated that she had met with former Senator Adlai Stevenson and that the family really wants to spend the money that they have on an artistic contract to form the artistic concept and architecture of how the collection will be displayed. They do not want a shrine, but rather to present the story of a family dedicated to civic life. This project could be tied to the 200th Anniversary. The suggestion of the formation of a Friends Group for project support was raised; what should be the role of Executive Director in this project?

Beckett: In preparing the annual report, he asked all board members to tell him, or Dick how they feel about the structure of the three boards (ALPL, IHPA, and Foundation) and how they could/should work together.

Stan Balzekas III, Director of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture was introduced as a guest/observer.

Library Director: Kathryn Harris reported that the library continues serving researchers and also education groups, with two groups visiting within the past week. It is the beginning of History Fair research season. Staff would like to serve even more groups, but it is a challenge with the current lack of staff.

Library staff continues work on the "Treasures Book" featuring unique and surprising items from the ALPL collection. This is to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Illinois State Historical Library (2014). Glenna Schroeder-Lein is editor and Patrick Russell served is the photographer. The manuscript is now at the SIU Press; galley proofs are scheduled to be received in December; publication date in August 2014 is the goal. Cost will be \$24.95 for paperback; approximately \$30 for hard cover.

Charles Branham suggested that a good way to promote our ALPLM resources would be to connect the library and museum educational materials to the growing importance of high school students being published before applying to colleges.

Kathryn stated that we need a Museum Education Director. Amy Martin replied that the Museum Education Director is one of the top three priorities for positions to be filled and she hopes to fill it by 12/13. The other two positions are: Director of Museum Exhibits (or Museum Exhibits Curator) and Illinois State Historian.

Eileen quoted Donna Carroll that the library is the pedagogical arm of the Museum.

Kathryn said that educational materials and outreach could be provided to historic sites. Amy said that the Education Director is not an agency wide position, and therefore does not involve historic sites.

Kathryn discussed the upcoming exhibit, Boys in Blue, Part IV, which will focus on the final year of the War, what happened to those who served after the War, and the formation of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). She also discussed possible staff involvement in this exhibit: A call was made Agency-wide for staff to provide information on Civil War soldiers in their families. Response has been good so far; both Confederate and Union soldiers will be represented in this part of the exhibit.

The Kerner Conference on November 2 will use the Library's AV and Manuscripts Collections to supplement the oral histories, providing a good example of museum/library collaboration.

There was a discussion of the WGN tapes and what will happen without the players. Eileen stated that we need financial and technical support. It was stated that the Library of Congress might have a role and WGN should be contacted too.

Donna Carroll said that Dominican University faculty can provide assistance if the course works is designed around specific projects. Any added projects need to be clearly developed for the students and be deemed appropriate for graduate level library school course work.

Eileen noted the AV Digitization Project with Daniel Stowell and Mary Michals; this is one of the initial projects of the Center for Digitization. \$50,000 is available and will allow about 10% of the AV Collection to be digitized. Selections have been made.

We have an extensive collection of Yates Papers in our MSS Collection; Wabash College, Wabash, IN, has donated the Yates papers in its collection to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln for inclusion in this digitization project.

Donna Carroll suggested that she would meet with Susan Roman, Emerita Dean of Dominican GSLIS program, to inquire if library school students might be interested and available to work on conservation of some of the items in the Yates collections.

Dick Meister stated that he would like an Annual Report from the library, 2-3 pages in length that features important activity data and shows progress and accomplishments.

Beckett had questions about revenue. He thinks we need to encourage more library use through better and increased marketing opportunities. Other collections needing processing including the music collection, the AV Collection, and the Stevenson Collection.

Dick Meister and Donna Carroll noted since the library lacks staff, priorities need to be established. What will generate revenue? There is the need to create a sustainable plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finances/Budget: Dick reported that Ranjan Karri has been traveling and could not be present. A detailed budget is included in the Board's packet for this meeting. Board members should be prepared to discuss the budget in more detail at the next meeting.

Marketing and Public Relations: Kristy Bond is a new marketing manager for the Agency. Chris Wills, now ALPLM PIO, has taken on greater responsibilities for the Agency. He needs support. Further discussion of marketing and news is needed.

Planning and Operations: Ken Crutcher, new Chief of Staff for the ALPLM, introduced himself. He reported that he is also the Library's facilities manager.

There was a prolonged discussion about the technicalities of background and procurement.

Amy stated that the project, i.e. to exhibit Stevenson Collection hasn't been reviewed by the IHPA Board that the IHPA Board must vote if the Library wants to change a reading room to an exhibit area.

Steve Beckett pointed out the awkwardness of this discussion as an indication of the tension between the two Boards. He reminded Amy that we are only talking about an idea and possibly advising, which is the purpose of the LAB.

Amy stated that the cost of exhibiting the (Stevenson) Collection was her responsibility and that \$20,000 is all that is available.

Pat Reardon asked if grants or fundraising could supplement state funds.

Amy stated that state funding was available.

Carla Knorowski stated grants go to government agencies, and are filtered through the Foundation.

IHPA: Director Amy Martin reported first on the Bicentennial Commission. The names of prospective members, among them historians, scholars, archivists, philanthropists, military and labor representatives, have been submitted to the Governor for review. There will be 40 appointments, by Executive Order, to be announced on 12-3-13, hopefully in Springfield.

The Agency has received two film sets from the "Lincoln movie". The Foundation has been working with Spielberg and DreamWorks on this project. The exhibit, arriving here in a few weeks and expected to be in place by the end of the year, will be housed at Union Station. Note: the Visitor Center has been moved to the Old State Capitol. The event ticket office is now housed on the first floor of the ALPL in the former volunteer office.

There will be a ribbon cutting for the DreamWorks exhibit in early 2014; the set will be in place for five years. Note: the sets are currently at the Reagan Library.

Dick: What is the difference between the Stevenson Exhibit and the Lincoln Movie Set Exhibit? Why didn't this decision require IHPA Board approval?

Amy: Union Station is not part of the ALPLM, the Lincoln exhibit is temporary. The Governor wanted the Lincoln exhibit; he had asked her to find other ways to use Union Station and there was no other space in Springfield for it. IHPA wants to increase ALPLM attendance, which has fallen to 4th place in Presidential Museums visitation.

Carla: When Reagan Museum hosted the DreamWorks exhibit, their attendance increased 40%.

Eileen said they also had artifacts from ALPLM as part of their exhibit.

Once the exhibit is in place, Amy will report back to the LAB.

Following was a discussion about the numbers/museum attendance. 500,000 visitors per year is the goal as pronounced by Amy Martin.

Vinck: We could discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Eileen suggested the LAB could be sent attendance numbers; Amy said they already do. Vinck said he has not received any reports re attendance.

Meister: How do we think about numbers? He doesn't see the correlation between a free Spielberg exhibit and paying admission for the ALPLM. It is possible, Dick said, that we might have created our own competition.

Sautter suggested that the admission to the DreamWorks Exhibit be a part of admission to ALPLM.

Amy stated that there would be a gift shop in conjunction with the DreamWorks Exhibit that will generate revenue.

December 12, 2013 is the Tri-Board meeting that is being held at the Governor's request. The meeting is being scheduled for 1-4 p.m. with an evening dinner including spouses and significant others. After discussion, it was decided that the LAB should meet over lunch prior to the Tri-Board meeting.

Amy stated that IHPA has contracted with Karen Witter, formerly on the IL State Museum administrative staff, to work on policies and practices for the ALPM with the goal of accreditation.

There is the need to fill the positions of Exhibits and Programs Director and Education Director, which are top priorities for the Agency and will help in our efforts towards accreditation; Witter's duties will focus on accreditation.

LAB Annual Report needs to be done before the end of the calendar year.

Library going digital...the LAB could analyze this topic.

LAB could assist in search for Illinois State Historian position by updating the job description and narrowing the pool of candidates.

Amy: Board of Trustees will make final recommendation to the Governor to fill the position of the State Historian.

Eileen asked if the focus of this position was on IL state history or department management.

Amy replied that the position will definitely have a management component.

Other discussion ensued about the State Historian position, including that it is a Governor appointed position, double exempt SPSA, confirmed and overseen by the IHPA Board and would report to Eileen.

ALPLM Foundation: Carla Knorowski reported that there is a new Foundation Board member, Sarah Falin of INB, Springfield.

The Foundation has acquired free advertising through the Tribune Media Group for the Gettysburg events.

They have selected the next candidate for the Lincoln Leadership Prize; however, it is not public information.

Carla thanked the LAB members for their support in all ventures, including continuing to fund a permanent home for the Taper Collection.

The 272 Words Project has had over 1,000 students participate and has provided a good introduction to high-level individuals such as the Chairman of Caterpillar and Chase, who have also written essays and sponsored field trips to the Museum. Caterpillar has sponsored 500 students for the Gettysburg events.

Eileen stated that our relationship with the State Board of Education is critical to the development of the ALPLM. The Joseph Smith Habeas Corpus event is sponsored by the State Board of Education.

Carla reported that the Foundation is 1% ahead in fundraising from this time last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Malvern Document: Kathryn reported that the return of the document to the National Archives had been approved by the IHPA Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the LAB. (The document has not yet been returned, due to the federal government shutdown) Steve Beckett said this action is a good example of how the Boards should work together.

Adlai Stevenson III: Eileen reported that his vision is that of a rotating exhibit, focusing on the concept of public service. It should provide general interest to reach the majority of the public sector.

For the 200th Anniversary of Statehood, the ALPLM and the IHPA should present Lincoln in the present day, as the global icon which he has become.

Former Senator Stevenson is interested in forming a Friend's Group for financial support for the Exhibit.

Patrick Reardon suggested that a topic for a future meeting could be "Whose papers does the Library want to collect and/or ought to collect in its role as a repository for Illinois history?"

NEW BUSINESS

Sean noted the success of Paul Kaufman's visit to the library. Next steps in conformity with Kaufman's report will be developed. Regarding Paula Kaufman's Visit: Staff must have a good and clear idea of deliverables and determine next steps following Paula's recommendations; funds are not available.

NEXT MEETINGS

On 12/12/13 the LAB will meet at the ALPL at 11:00 a.m. for a working lunch before the 1:00 p.m. Tri-Board meeting.

Dates have been set for 2014 LAB meetings. See ALPLM web site.

Dick Meister adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Notes recorded and transcribed by Jan Perone, Kathryn Harris, and Eileen Mackevich, October, 2013.